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Editorial

ABSOLUTE AND RELATIVE

When we hear that "only 39 per cent of the students in secondary schools now study Latin," we are apt to take a gloomy view of the situation, and those who make the statement generally intend to produce this view. But percentages, i.e., relative numbers, are likely to mislead, and, considering the fact that in the past quarter-century the high-school curriculum has been vastly expanded, that a great variety of new and interesting subjects has been offered to the student, and that numerous technical and commercial high schools have been established, it is not strange or damaging to Latin that it no longer draws as large a percentage of high-school students as formerly. The important thing is (and this is too frequently unknown or overlooked) that Latin not only maintains its absolute enrolment, but has actually increased this. According to Commissioner of Education Claxton's recent report, during the five years 1910-15 the Latin enrolment in secondary schools advanced from 400,000 to 500,000 (round numbers). Such a showing as this as to the country-wide status of Latin in the secondary schools certainly presents no reason for depression in the classical ranks.

OUR CONSTITUTION

[Although the Classical Association of the Middle West and South has been working under a constitution from the date of its organization, May 5, 1905, this constitution has never been published. At the annual meeting in April last, at Louisville, the matter of publication was brought up and recommended, on the ground that